

PATENT

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of:

Applicants : Wolf et al.  
Serial No. : 10/606,192  
Filed : June 25, 2003  
Title : BRAIDED GOLD SUTURE AND METHOD OF USE  
Docket : 633032-00002  
Examiner : Amanda S. Adams  
Art Unit : 3731

Commissioner for Patents  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132**

I, Bradley R. Wolf, declare and state the following:

1. I am a co-inventor of the subject matter disclosed and claimed in U.S. Patent Application No. 10/606,192.

2. I am familiar with the final Office action dated September 28, 2006 and the associated advisory action dated January 4, 2007, including the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over FR 2,747,908 to Chout in view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0139775 to Grafton and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,086,578 to Adamyan et al.

3. I received a M.D. degree in 1980 from INDIANA UNIVERSITY

4. I have been a practicing physician in the field(s) of COSMETIC SURGERY since 1984. I am currently the PRESIDENT of WOLF MEDICAL ENTERPRISES

5. The inventions disclosed and claimed in U.S. Patent Application No. 10/606,192 are based upon the unexpected discovery that a braided suture formed by braiding at least one gold thread together with at least one bioabsorbable thread provides (A) a substantial increase in total gold surface area per overall length and diameter of the suture, and (B), after implantation and absorption of the bioabsorbable component of the suture, an implanted gold structure that has an irregular shape (i.e., not straight) (e.g., a zigzag pattern).

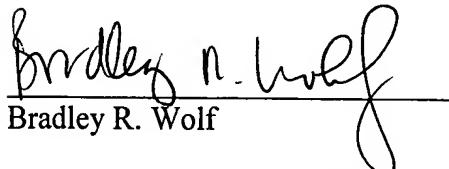
6. The braided sutures disclosed and claimed in U.S. Patent Application No. 10/606,192 provide the unexpected advantages of (A) providing improved bonding strength, which reduces

tissue stretch and the formation of enlarged scars, and (B) stimulating collagen formation, which contributes to healthy (e.g., smaller) scar tissue formations.

7. The unexpected advantages described in paragraph 6, above, stem from the increased surface area of the gold thread achieved by braiding the gold thread together with bioabsorbable thread. In particular, after the braided sutures are implanted into body tissue and the bioabsorbable component dissolves, the remaining gold component has an irregular shape with voids and a greater surface area per length of suture than would be obtainable with a straight suture. The additional gold surface area stimulates collagen growth, thereby contributing to healthy scar tissue growth, and engages more tissue, thereby providing a stronger bond between tissue that reduces stretch.

8. Under my direction and control, braided sutures were prepared by braiding strands of gold thread together with strands of bioabsorbable thread (VICRYL®). The braided sutures were found to contain about 30 to about 35 percent more gold thread per length of the overall suture as compared to straight strands of gold thread.

9. I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the above-captioned patent application or any patent issued thereon.

  
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Bradley R. Wolf

Date: February 2, 2007